

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

E.O.: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJECT: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, CHIEF JUSMG AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR HAVE RENEWED CONTACTS ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE THREE PRINCIPAL MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION (DOLZ, GUIMERA, LIBERAL) AS WELL AS WITH PERINAT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS HAS BEEN PRIMARILY FOR THE PRUPOSE OF INQUIRING AS TO THE STATE OF THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR RESUMED DISCUSSIONS. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, WHILE WE HAVE NO WISH TO PRESS THE SPANISH SIDE AT A MOMENT WHEN THEY ARE CLEARLY DISTRACTED BY OTHER EVENTS, WE WISH TO BE HELPFUL AND ARE WILLING TO PRESS FORWARD. WE HAVE REMINDED ALL THREE MILITARY REPS AS WELL OF THE SPECIFIC OFFER TO CARRY FORWARD THE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE COMBINED STAFF VIA CHIEF JUSMG. FURTHER, THESE OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN USED TO COUNTER THE CANARD SUGGESTING THAT THE US SIDE SOMEHOW TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CORTINA IN A MOMENT OF SPANISH WEAKNESS (DURING THE AFTERMATH OF THE EXECUTION HERE OF TERRORISTS).

2. ALL FOUR OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THEY KNOW NO MORE ABOUT CORTINA'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY THAN THEY DID ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER AT THE END OF AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S PRESENTATION (NOR DO THEY APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT ROVIRA HAS YET BEEN MADE PRIVY TO THIS INFORMATION). DOLZ PUT IT
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THIS WAY TO THE POL/MIL COUNSELOR: CORTINA HAD, PRIOR TO THE LAST

NEGOTIATING SESSION, TOLD THE SPANISH DELEGATION ONE THING; THEY HAD HEARD QUITE A DIFFERENT THING FROM MCCLOSKEY DURING THE SESSION. CORTINA HAD SAID THAT NOTHING BESIDES WHAT WAS IN THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT HAD BEEN AGREED. PERINAT STATES CORTINA SWORE THIS ON HIS HONOR. PERINAT, DOLZ AND GUIMERA ALL TOOK THE LINE THAT THERE HAD CLEARLY BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING. DOLZ AND GUIMERA SAID PERHAPS THIS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CORTINA'S POOR ENGLISH. PERINAT THOUGHT PERHAPS THE MISUNDERSTANDING AROSE FROM CORTINA'S VIEW THAT THE FACILITIES AND QUID ISSUES ARE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE.

3. IN ANY EVENT, NONE OF THE FOUR IS PREPARED TO CONCEDE AT THIS POINT THAT THE US DRAFTS OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS FAITHFULLY REFLECTED THE SUBSTANCE OF CORTINA'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY REGARDING FACILITIES AND THE QUID. GUIMERA SUGGESTED RATHER DIRECTLY THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ON FACILITIES AND QUID WERE NOT THE BEST ARRANGEMENTS SPAIN COULD OBTAIN FROM THESE NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH DOLZ AND GUIMERA SEEMED RATHER DISINCLINED TO PRESS FORWARD WITH DISCUSSIONS ABOUT "SUPPLEMENTARY" MATTERS SUCH AS THE COMBINED STAFF UNTIL MORE BASIC ISSUES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

4. LIBERAL HAS SUGGESTED TO CHIEF JUSMG THE INJECTION INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS OF A PROVISION FORMALIZING JOINT USE OF THE RADIO FACILITIES AT GUARDAMAR, AS WELL AS A POSSIBLE SERIES OF US-FINANCED PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS AT ROTA AFFECTING JOINTLY-USED FACILITIES.

5. THERE WILL APPARENTLY BE, AFTER SOME HIATUS, A WORKING MEETING OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION ON THURSDAY, NOV 6.

6. COMMENT: IN FACT, CORTINA HAS APPARENTLY NOT INFORMED ROVIAR OR ANBODY ELSE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MCCLOSKEY AND THE AMBASSADOR ON OCT 17. HOWEVER, CORTINA DID COMMENT TO THE AMBASSADOR ON NOV 2 THAT AS SOON AS HIS PRESENT PREOCCUPATIONS, I.E., THE SAHARA AND THE POLITICAL SUCCESSION, WERE OUT OF THE WAY, HE WOULD TURN HIS ATTENTION TO THE AGREEMENTS. OF COURSE, THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT CORTINA WILL STAY ON AS FOREIGN MINISTER IF GOVT CHANGES ARE MADE.

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7. WHATEVER HOPES THERE MAY BE ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH MILITARY AND OTHERS THAT A BETTER AGREEMENT IS OBTAINABLE MAY HAVE FOUND SOME SUSTENANCE RECENTLY IN THE SPANISH PRESS, PRIMARILY IN THE FORM OF REPORTS BASED ON THE AMERICAN PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT US OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY IN DOD, BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL TRANSITION THAT HAS NOW BEGUN MAY BRING A RENEGOTIATION AND THAT THE US MAY BE PLANNING ALREADY A NEW EFFORT ON BEHALF OF SPAIN AT THE NEXT NATO MINISTERIAL.

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